***Psalm 51:9-12 Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. 10Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. 12Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.***

Return, put away, prepare, remain. This morning, we enter the time that we call revival. We all understand that Revival is not a place on the calendar, but a state of our spirits. We enter this time seeking to be made alive again. My grandmother had an old alarm clock that sat on the table by her bed. It was gold, with engraved designs all over the casing. It didn’t use batteries or electricity. It was a wind-up clock. Each night, grandma would sit on the edge of her bed and wind-up that clock – I can still hear the zzzz, zzzz, zzzz in my head as I think about it. If she didn’t wind, the clock was soon a paperweight sitting on a nightstand. Revival is God winding us up, winding us up, making us ready! It’s not about saving souls, though we certainly pray that God will save every soul and that we will be baptizing every Sunday until He comes back… Grandma wound to energize that clock for the purpose it was made. Revival is God re-aliving us, reenergizing us, reinvigorating us, winding us up for the purpose we were made… to serve Him and glorify His name. Wound up or run down…? Let’s be wound up for Jesus, each and every evening, zzzz, zzzz, zzzz, as He winds us up for His glory!

Verse 9 says - *Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.* God, I am a sinner, saved only by Your Grace. My best works are as filthy rags. My lips are unclean, my heart is desperately wicked. Isaiah 6:5 *And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”* God, hide Your face from My sins and blot out. In this verse, we are returning to God, seeking His face and His forgiveness. We’re putting away the things – possessions, positions, people, and places that create separation from God. And we notice that He is the One forgiving and blotting out. We approach His throne, not sinless, but seeking! We’re wounded and weary, help us we pray. God, only You can forgive. We return, seeking Your forgiveness now.

Verse 10 says - *Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.* In verse 9, we returned to God, and we put away the distractions drawing us from God. Now, we’re asking Him to prepare us for the reviving power of the Holy Spirit. Create in me. Again, we humbly submit, but God creates! Create in me a clean heart. Whiter than snow God, wash me just now, while in Thy presence, humbly I bow. Renew a steadfast spirit… what does that tell us? If He is renewing, that means that the steadfast spirit was there before! He cannot renew what was never new to begin with. He cannot revive what was never alive to begin with. In this time of revival, we are seeking His face and trusting His name to cleanse and renew. Many are our excuses to turn from God – the pastor is too loud, too quiet, calls too much, calls too little, remembers too much, remembers too little. The church didn’t appreciate. My brother, my sister in Christ said something that I latched onto and made the center of my worship, rather than God. I left God because of something wrong in my heart. Create in me a clean heart and renew that steadfast spirit. When I stand one day before Him, He won’t ask about others. He’ll be focused on me, focused on you. We plead the Blood of Jesus and we have work to do.

Verse 11 *Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.* He will never leave us nor forsake us. He is always with us. It’s not He but we. We depart His Presence. We deny His Holy Spirit. People don’t visit much anymore. When people came to visit, mama would sit on the porch with them or in the front living room. Only those closest to us were welcomed deeper into our home. Those closest to us she’d say, “They have the run of the house.” How deep into your life have you welcomed God? Is He a front porch God… a front room God…. Or is He a run of the house God? Let’s give Him the run of the place!

Verse 12 *Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.* Return, put away, prepare… now, remain. Restore to me the Joy of Your salvation. That which has never been stored cannot be restored! Revive in me that generous Spirit that sustains me, reinvigorates me, makes me excited for Your service again! Ephesians 6:10 says *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.* Isaiah 40:29 says *He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength.* Restore me and sustain me for Your service O God! John 15:11, Jesus says *These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.* Who is the Joy of our salvation? Jesus Christ. How does that Joy remain full and at the center? By abiding in God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

This week, let’s find our Joy again. Let’s be revived! Let’s return, put away, prepare, and remain in service to Him. Let Him wind us up for His purposes! God is no front porch God. God is no front room God. God wants the run of the place… will we be revived this week, restored to Joy, reinvigorated in our pursuit of Him in every part of our lives? Open the door, hand Him the keys, and watch as He creates a true mansion where a worthless little shack once stood.